

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of bending Composite Reinforced Pipe (CRP) comprising:

placing a heater proximate to a longitudinal location along the pipe where the pipe is to be bent, the pipe having a composite reinforcement comprising a resin and reinforcement fibers coupled thereto;

heating the pipe to a temperature above a heat distortion temperature of the resin such that the composite reinforcement is heated to a temperature slightly below a heat distortion temperature of the composite reinforcement; and

bending the pipe at the longitudinal location.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the pipe is bent incrementally at a plurality of longitudinally displaced locations.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein a plurality of bends effect approximately 1° of total bend in a longitudinal length equal to a diameter of the CRP.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the longitudinally displaced locations are separated by a distance equal to approximately 1/4 of a diameter of the pipe.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the pipe is bent 1/4° at each location.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
preheating the pipe prior to heating the pipe.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

capping the pipe to prevent heat loss.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the heater is an induction heater.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein preheating comprises:
introducing hot air into the CRP.
11. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for bending a section of composite reinforced pipe comprising:
 - a frame;
 - a die mounted on the frame;
 - a pin up shoe for securing the section of pipe against the die;
 - a stiffback movably mounted on the frame for bending the section of pipe against the die;
 - a heater for elevating the temperature of the section of pipe; and
 - means for longitudinally positioning the section of pipe in the apparatus.
12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the heater is an induction heater.
13. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the heater encircles the section of pipe.
14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the die is segmented.
15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 11 further comprising:
 - an indexing wheel; and
 - a controller to activate the die responsive to the indexing wheel.
16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the means for longitudinally positioning comprising:
 - a powered roller to translate the pipe in either a forward or reverse direction.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the reinforcement fibers are positioned circumferentially and longitudinally along the pipe. a composite reinforcement of the CRP comprises a resin with circumferential reinforcement fibers and longitudinal reinforcement fibers positioned along the pipe.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein a number of longitudinal fibers is greater than a number of circumferential fibers.